

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The City of Woodstock is starting a Trail Watch volunteer program that will add an additional layer of safety on its trails. Woodstock Trail Watch volunteers promote safety and appropriate trail use by providing information and assistance to all trail users. They observe and document trail safety issues requiring attention, serve as a positive presence on Woodstock trails and assist the Woodstock Parks and Recreation and Woodstock Police Departments to keep Woodstock's trails safe and well maintained.

Woodstock Parks and Recreation Director, Preston Pooser says "the Trail Watch Volunteers will assist the City of Woodstock in keeping our 20+ miles of trails safe and enjoyable for all. Volunteers, ages 18 and older, will be trained in first aid, CPR, trail etiquette and reporting procedures. They will not be asked to intervene in potentially dangerous situations, only report them".

Pooser adds, "It's like "Neighborhood Watch" on our trails. Trail Watch is a volunteer program in which hikers, cyclists, skaters and walkers assist the City in monitoring Woodstock's trails and parks. Volunteers are identified by a brightly colored vest or t-shirt and a City issued ID card. They serve as "extra eyes and ears" on the trails".

Trail Watch volunteers report safety hazards, suspicious activity and assist trail users. Trail Watch volunteers must be 18 years of age, have a successful background check and attend a mandatory 2-hour training class. For individuals who don't currently have first aid and CPR Certifications, a full 8-hour course will be offered that will include first aid and CPR.

Upcoming Trail Watch Academy Classes are Tuesday August 26, 2014 for individuals with current first aid and CPR certifications. A full 8-hour Trail Watch Academy will be held on Saturday September 6, 2014 for individuals who need to complete their CPR and first aid certifications to participate. Classes are held at Magnolia Hall, 108 Arnold Mill Road, Building C, in Woodstock. Anyone interested in applying for Trail Watch Program and those wanting to sign up for the Trail Watch Academy, are encouraged to call the Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department at (770) 517-6788.

## **Steps to Become a Trail Watch Volunteer**

- Complete an Application and Background Check
- Attend training
- Hit the trail
- Report your observations

## **Woodstock Trail Watch Volunteer Requirements**

- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Complete the application and attend training.
- Carry a personal cell phone at all times while on the trail.
- Carry Trail Watch ID and wear a Trail Watch vest or t-shirt.
- Log and report time on trail.